

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 7-21, 30, 33-35, 38, 63-66, 71, and 72 were pending in the application. Claims 22, 24-28, 57, 58, and 67-70 have previously been allowed. Claims 1 and 7-21 are presently allowed. Accordingly, claims 1, 7-22, 24-48, 57, 58, and 67-70 are allowed.

Claims 65, 66, and 72 are objected to as being in improper form because a multiply dependent claim cannot be dependent from another multiply dependent claim. Claims 63, 64, and 71 are objected to as depending from a rejected claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Independent claim 2 and dependent claims 3, 30, 33-35, and 38 stand rejected.

In this response, Applicant amends claims 2, 63-66, 71, and 72, and adds new claim 75. Claim 2 is amended to accommodate the provisos that were present prior to the preceding amendment. Claims 63, 64, and 71 are rewritten as independent claims. Claim 72 has been rewritten as an independent claim and new claim 75 is added to accommodate the subject matter no longer claimed in claim 72 as amended herein. Claims 65 and 66 are amended to depend from independent claim 72 or 75. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Accordingly, claims 2, 3, 30, 33-35, 38, 63-66, 71, 72, and 75 are pending and are now in condition for allowance.

The rejection and each of the objections levied in the Office Action are addressed individually below.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claim 2 and dependent claims 3, 30, 33-35, and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that when previously dependent claim 2 was amended to be in independent form, because none of the provisos were included in the amendment, the newly independent claim 2 comprises new matter. Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner to page 4, line 7 through page 6 line 19 of the specification as filed for written support for independent claim 2 lacking the provisos in

question. In order to expedite prosecution, however, Applicant hereby amends independent claim 2 to include the provisos recited by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is thereby obviated. Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn. Applicant reserves the right to pursue cancelled subject matter in future applications.

Claim Objections.

Claims 65, 66, and 72 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiply dependent claim cannot depend from another multiply dependent claim. Applicant has rewritten claim 72 as an independent claim and added new claim 75 to accommodate the subject matter no longer claimed in claim 72 as amended herein. Claims 65 and 66 are amended to depend from independent claim 72 or 75. Applicant respectfully submits that this objection is hereby obviated and submits that claims 65, 66, 72 and 75 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 63, 64, and 71 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner has indicated, though, that they would be allowable “if rewritten in independent form.” Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 as amended, and therefore dependent claim 30, are allowable. In order to expedite prosecution, however, claims 63, 64, and 71 have also been rewritten in independent form. Applicant submits that all claims objected to for depending from a rejected base claim have been rewritten as independent claims or now depend from an allowable base claim.

Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 2, 3, 30, 33-35, 38, 63-66, 71, 72, and 75 are now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (617) 248-5215 with any questions pertaining to the above-identified application in order to expedite prosecution of this case.

Please charge any fees that may be required for the processing of this Response, or credit any overpayments, to our Deposit Account No. 03-1721.

Respectfully submitted,



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